



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

September 11, 2019
AGENDA ITEM #4

Honor the memory of Lisa Simone Jones in conjunction with completing the new Purple Sage Pedestrian Bridge crossing US 183, part of the Bergstrom Expressway (183 South) Project.

Strategic Plan Relevance: Mobility Solutions that Respect the Communities we Serve

Department: Engineering

Contact: Justin Word, P.E., Director of Engineering

Associated Costs: Minor costs to attach Plaque

Funding Source: Project Funds

Action Requested: Consider and act on draft resolution

Project Description/Background – The Purple Sage Pedestrian Bridge across US 183 near the intersection of Manor Road and Springdale Road was originally constructed in 1992 to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing access following the tragic death of an LBJ High School student, Lisa Simone Jones. The LBJ High School community rallied together in support of the late student and her family and placed a memorial plaque on the bridge to honor her memory.

As part of the 183 South Project, the Purple Sage Pedestrian Bridge was demolished and reconstructed. The Mobility Authority’s 183 South Project Team salvaged the dedication plaque from the original bridge prior to demolition. (See exhibit B, photo of plaque). The east Austin community and the family of Lisa Jones have requested that the Mobility Authority install the memorial plaque on the newly constructed bridge.

Previous Actions/Brief History of the Project/Program – Research indicates that the City of Austin adopted a resolution on March 12, 1992, requesting that TxDOT officially designate the Purple Sage Pedestrian Bridge as the “Lisa Simone Jones Memorial Overpass”. Through public engagement efforts on the 183 South Project, the Mobility Authority learned that the east Austin community and LBJ High School officials held an

unofficial dedication ceremony when the plaque was installed in 1992. Various neighborhood groups and community organizations are aware of the plaque and the young lady whose life it recognizes and have expressed their desire to see that designation live on with the new bridge. The Mobility Authority would like to preserve the memory of this young lady by installing the plaque on the new bridge.

Action requested/Staff Recommendation - Staff recommends honoring the memory of Lisa Simone Jones in conjunction with completing the new Purple Sage Pedestrian Bridge crossing US 183, part of the Bergstrom Expressway (183 South) Project.

Funding - Project Funds

Backup Provided: Resolution to be presented at the Board Meeting